NEC226
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MINUTES

OF THE

FLAT RIVER DISTICT

Baptist Association,

BEGAN AND HELD AT

ENOE MEETING-HOUSE,

ORANGE COUNTY,

The 4th Saturday in October, 1811, *and days following.*

RALEIGH—FROM THE STAR PRESS,

T. HENDERSON, Jun'r. & Co. PRINTERS.

1811.

MINUTES, &c.

1. THE Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Tho's Gardner, from 2d Corinthians 5th & 20th v. "Now then we are Ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

2. The Association then convening and being opened by prayer and praise by Elder Gardner, proceeded to business.

3. Elder Gardner was chosen Moderator and brother George Brasfield Clerk, and Elder Thomas Vass, Assistant Clerk.

4. Letters from 10 Churches were handed in and read, and their Messengers' names enrolled.

5. Brethren Ministers from sister Associations were invited to seats with us, who presented us with a few copies of their Minutes, which was received in token of love.

6. A Letter of Correspondence was also handed in from the Cape-Fear Association, which was in like manner received.

7. A Letter of Dissmission of Buffaloe Church from the Roanoak Association, to join us for convenience sake, was presented by Elder Balaam Ezell, and the letter and messenger received into union with us.

8. Brethren appointed to preach to-morrow, Elders Picket, Ezell and Vass; worship to begin at 9 o'clock.

9. Committee appointed to arrange the business for Monday, Elders Picket, Vass, Ezell and Weathers, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

Then adjourned until Monday morning.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dismissed.	Restored.	Excommunicated	Deceased.	Numbers.	Contributions.
									£. s. d.
Tanner's Meeting House.	Thomas Gardner John Starks John Clark	11	1				2	210	1 10
Tabb's Creek.	Thos. Tommison *(letter miscarried)*							60	17 6
Tarr River.	Allen Howard Barnet Howard*	5		2		2		35	10
Grassy Creek.	Thomas Vass Thomas Hester Thomas Pettard	3		3		1		113	12 6
Lock's Meeting House.	Roland Cooke Blount Cooper* Knight Dalby	1		3		1		33	10
Prichard's Meeting House.	George Williams W. H. Merritt							90	10
Enoe Meeting House.	James Ferrel Wm. W. Farthing George Brasfield	2		6		2	1	100	15
Camp Creek.	Michael Carry John Wilbourne James Roberts	4	2					39	10
Cedar Creek.	Stephen Johnson* Samuel Allen*	2	2		1	1	1	53	10
Neuse Meeting House.	James Weathers Simpson Shaw Joseph Galliher		2	1	2	1	3	98	15
Buffaloe Creek.	Balaam Zell							120	5
		28	7	15	3	8	7	951	7 5 0
Corresponding Messengers.	Reuben Pickett Richard Henslee Ezekiel Trice								

LORD's DAY--Elder Reuben Picket preached to a large and attentive congregation from Romans 4th and 6th: "Even as David also describeth the blessed-

ness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works."

Elder Balaam Ezell preached from Luke 14th and 23d: "And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." After which a very moving exhortation was delivered by Elder Vass, all of which we hope will be accompanied with a divine blessing.

MONDAY MORNING. Being met, prayer was offered up by the Moderator, and proceeded to business.

1. Elder Roland Cooke being called on produced a Circular Letter, which being read was approved of.

2. A few copies of the Minutes of the General Meeting of Correspondence were handed in by the messengers thereto: *Resolved*, That the Churches which compose this Association be consulted thereon until next Association, when the same is to be reconsidered. In the mean time brethren James Ferrell and William W. Farthing are appointed messengers to next General Meeting, to be held in Raleigh on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July next.

3. The brethren appointed to attend Countryline Association reported and gave satisfaction.

4. The brethren appointed to attend Raleigh Association reported and gave satisfaction.

5. The brethren appointed to attend Kahukee Association reported and gave satisfaction.

6. The request of the Cedar Creek Church for a Presbytery was withdrawn.

7. *Quere* by the Committee, "Is any Minister of our connexion justifiable in publickly and positively asserting that the soul of Christ was in hell during the time his body lay in the grave?" Answered in the negative.

8. Brother Wm. W. Farthing was appointed Tre
surer pro tem.

9. The Clerk being called on, reported that the
remained in his hands, after paying for printing la
Minutes, the sum of Three Dollars Twenty cents.

10. Brethren Simpson Shaw and Knight Dall
were appointed a Committee of Finance.

11. The Treasurer reported that he had received t
sum of $ 15 50, which was put into the hands of t
Clerk, who is to prepare these Minutes for the pre
and pay for printing 150 copies and distribute the
as usual.

12. Brother Wm. W. Farthing was appointed
write a corresponding letter to the next Cape-Fe
Association.

13. Resolved in future all young preachers in t
bounds of this Association previous to their bei
trusted out of the bounds of their Church, the Chur
shall call for ministerial helps, who together with t
Church, shall examine thi gift and qualification, wh
should they think proper, may licence them to exerc
his gift abroad.

14. Elders Thomas Vass, Roland Cooke & Bala
Ezell were appointed messengers to next Roano
Association.

15. Brethren Thomas Vass, Balaam Ezell and H
ry Bunch appointed messengers to next Countryl
Association.

16. Brethren Roland Cooke and James Weath
appointed messengers te next Raleigh Association.

17. Brother Henry Bunch appointed to write a c
responding letter to next Neuse Association; he a
having been appointed to write a letter to the next G
neral Meeting of Correspondence produced the sa
which being read was approved.

18. Brother Wm. W. Farthing appointed to write e next Circular Letter and choose his subject.

19. Recommended by this Association, that the iday before the fourth Sunday in November next observed as a day of Fasting and Humiliation by ayer to Almighty God, for the prosperity of Zion d our National peace and safety.

20. Our next Association to be holden at Tabb's eek Meeting House, Granville County, the Saturday fore the first Sunday in August next, and Elder Ro- d Cooke to preach the Introductory Sermon.

After returning thanks, dismissed.

Signed by order,

THOMAS GARDNER, *Moderator.*
GEORGE BRASFIELD, *Clerk.*

(Circular Letter.)

e Flat River Baptist Association, convened at Enoe Meeting House, to the respective Churches they represent send Christian salutation:

ELOVED BRETHREN,

WE, through the wise and benevolent dispensations God, are again permitted to address you in the capacity of advisory council; We have once more had a pleasing in- iew with each other, and the glorious sound of the Gos- of Jesus, with the important truths therein contained has ited our ears; to one of which thruths amongst many, we call your attention; the subject, though not new, yet is resting, (to wit,) The final perseverance of the Saints in ce—Though the subject has often been treated on by ma- of our Scripture Divines, yet we wish to stir up your pure ds by way of remembrance. The subject though in the k of God, yet many deny it, though none will be saved out it. But to do ample justice to a subject of such im- ance, cannot be expected in the bounds of a Circular Let- we shall only offer a few reasons in favour of its support the best authority: 1st. A strong and undeniable rea- support of the doctrine, is from the covenant made

with Noah—Thence it was that God again would no mor drown the world with water. See Genesis, 9th, &c. Now w do not, nor neither can we without being guilty of the mos daring impiety, call in question the veracity of God. In thi solemn promise, others that believe that the saints may fal must think there is a probability that God will deny himse and drown the world again with water; but brethren we be lieve God's word, he says he will not. Isaiah 54 & 9. "Fo as the waters of Noah unto me, for as I have sworn that th waters of Noah shall no more go over the earth, so have sworn that I would not be wroth with thee nor rebuke thee." 10th v. "For the mountians shall depart and the hills be re moved, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neithe shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." From these promises laid down in these verses, the people of God have no more reason to doubt of their security in Christ and final perseverance in grace, than they have that God will deny himself and drown the world again with a deluge of water—And another reason we find recorded by Saint Paul, Heb. 6th, 17 & 18. "Where in God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of pro mise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath; That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."— Here we find the Apostle speaking of believers in Christ who have fled to him for refuge to lay hold on him as the hope set before them, which hope is an anchor of the soul.— Now as he is the true vine and we are the branches, we be lieve we can't die except the vine fail; that can't be, for he even liveth to make intercession for the saints, according to the will of God, and saith, as I live ye shall live also. Now Noah was no more safe when shut up in the Ark, than God's children are "When dead and there lives hid with Christ in God." Another support we find in Jeremiah 32 and 40. "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them to do them good." But it is said they may turn away themselves from Him, and so finally perish; but in the same verse God says "But I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." Who dare contend with God, brethren, whilst they measure arms with Jehovah; let us believe his word, for on this doctrine our e-

ternal all depends, so "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy, when I fall I shall arise," because the steps of a good man is ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way—"Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him in his hand." Again the blessed Jesus hath said, "All that the father giveth me shall come unto me, and him that cometh I will in no wise cast out." We might add many scriptures more as much to the purpose, but our limits will not admit to enlarge the subject.---Though beloved brethren we believe Christ to be all in all in our salvation, "For we are dead and our lives are hid with Christ in God. When he who is our life shall appear, then shall we appear with him in glory." He has said "Whom I love I love unto the end"---It is said to the end of our obedience; if so, his love must depend thereon, and not be fixed or placed until we become obedient, which we know by experience would never have been, had not God of his own love and pity called, drawn and awakened us. Then, brethren, if we have the witness in ourselves, let us rejoice in as much as we are children, "If children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ." So brethren, ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your bodies and in your spirits, which are the Lords—"Since principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, is able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Brethren whilst we were in our sins Christ loved us and called us with an holy calling into his divine favour, not because we were better by nature than others, but that the purpose of God in Election might stand, not of works, but of grace, for it is "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." Therefore whislt others boast of will and power, let us plead our poverty and say with the Apostle that our sufficiency is of God, for without him we can do nothing; but God has promised to be with us always, then fear not, ye little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom; then hold up your heads a little longer and you shall be put in possession of that glorious kingdom, where you shall be crowned with crowns of glory and palms of victory in your hands, and you shall sing a new song, even praise to God and the Lamb forever and ever—

AMEN.

THOMAS GARDNER, *Moderator*,
GEORGE BRASFIELD, *Clerk*.